In the Claims

Please cancel claims 3 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (currently amended) A long-term stabilized magnesium hydroxide suspension adapted to cover pellets of several kinds of materials to avoid their agglomeration when treated at high temperatures, which comprises a solids content of about 51% to 61%, by weight; a water content of about 39% to 49%, by weight; a viscosity of about 500 to 1,500 cp.; an average particle size of about 1 to 2.5 microns; a $Mg(OH)_2$ content of about 50% to 60%, by weight; a chloride content of less than about 0.6%, by weight, on a dry basis; a calcium content of less than about 1%, by weight on a dry basis; a pH of about 10.5 to 12; an equivalent magnesium oxide content of about 34% to 42%, by weight; a specific gravity of about 1.42 to 1.52; and including at least one anionic polyelectrolyte as a dispersant agent, at a concentration of at least about 25%, in an amount of about 0.5 to about 2.5%, by weight, on a dry basis and ~~an adherent compound~~ a compound that improves the adhesion of the suspension to the pellets having a concentration of at least about 30% in an amount of about 0.5 to about 5%, by weight, on a dry basis; adapted to being stored for at least three months without substantial agitation and without experiencing substantial settlement, while avoiding the formation of a solid, hard substrate.

2. (original) The long term stabilized magnesium hydroxide suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein the anionic polyelectrolyte is selected from the group consisting of sodium polyacrylate and ammonium polystyrene/maleate.

3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A long term stabilized magnesium hydroxide suspension adapted to cover pellets of several kinds of materials to avoid their agglomeration when treated at temperatures of between about 900°C to 1,000°C, which comprises a solids content of about 55%, by weight; a water content of about 44%, by weight; a viscosity of about 1,000 cp.; an average particle size of about 2.0 microns; a $Mg(OH)_2$ content of about 55%, by weight; a chloride content of about 0.30%, by weight; a calcium content of about 0.45%, by weight; a pH of about 11.7; an equivalent magnesium oxide content of about 38%, by weight; a specific gravity of about 1.47; and including at least one anionic polyelectrolyte as a dispersant agent, at a concentration of about 40%, in an amount of about 1%, by weight, on a dry basis and an adherent compound having a concentration of at least about 30% in an amount of about 1.5% to 2.0%, by weight, on a dry basis; adapted to being stored for at least three months without substantial agitation and without experiencing substantial settlement, while avoiding the formation of solid, hard substrate.

5. (cancelled)

6. (currently amended) The long term stabilized magnesium hydroxide suspension as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ~~adherent~~ compound that improves the adhesion of the suspension to the pellets is selected from the group consisting of styrene-acrylic emulsions.

Claims 7 - 17 (withdrawn)